

DECEMBER 2012 – JANUARY 2013

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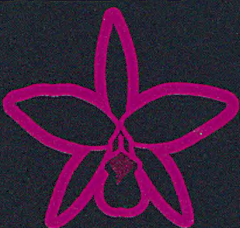
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From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to another diverse and information packed issue of the *Australian Orchid Review*. We have a number of articles covering a range of topics with many new and unique orchids being showcased for the first time. Enjoy!

Easy Orchids are selling their orchid growers supply and distribution arm of their business. This is entirely due to Murray's inability to recover from a stroke. It is a straight forward business to run with no perishable stock. Excellent turnover, good margins would suit husband and wife. Offered with or without real estate to suit buyer, please phone Murray or Jean Shergold on 02 6682 2635 for more details.

Sadly, Juergen Heindke from El Dorado Orchids passed away early this year, and his wife Kay is looking at selling his collection of orchids as a job lot. Juergen specialised in *Cattleya* and *Laelia* species and had an extensive range. This would ideally suit a person interested in hybridising or a hobbyist who simply enjoys species *Cattleyas*. Genuine buyers please contact Kay Heindke on 0417 021 789 for an appointment.

Down Under Native Orchids has been for sale for the past 12 months. Phena & Brian Gerhard are selling the business they bought from master breeder Neil Finch over 12 years ago. All plants, structures, laboratory, breeding records are part of the sale and the freehold can be included if required. Located on the Central Coast of NSW. Interested parties may contact the Gerhard's on 02 4385 4552.

Orchidaceous Supplies from Queensland have expanded their base and now have an agent in Guildford, NSW, selling raw dust-free Kiwi Orchid Pine Bark and graded Charcoal. I have been asked many times of late about the chemicals needed to "treat" raw pine bark. This brew was developed about twenty years ago (if memory serves me right) between Neil Finch, Werner Deisel and Alan Merriman. It is no longer a secret!

To treat a garbage bin (75 litres) of pine bark, add the following:

- 180 grams of Dolomite
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Place bark in bin, add chemicals, fill with water, let soak for 7-14 days, then drain and rinse thoroughly (the dark liquid will quickly green-up your lawn!). Then it's ready to use.

The Queensland International Orchid Fair has a new venue. It will now be held at the Beenleigh Showground, James Street, Beenleigh Qld from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd March 2013.

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com



DECEMBER 2012 – JANUARY 2013 Volume 77 – No. 6

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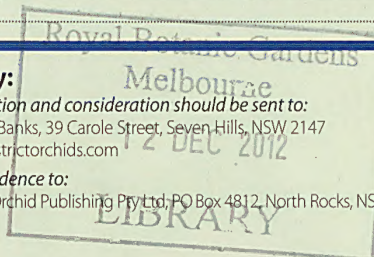
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Cover Shot

Phaius Lady Ramona Harris 'Looking at You' AM/AOS is a new awarded cultivar recently introduced into Australia.

Plant: Hills District Orchids,
Photo: David Banks

Phaius Lady Ramona Harris
'Looking at You'
(plant: Hills District Orchids,
photo: David Banks)



Phaius Lady Ramona Harris 'Looking at You' AM/AOS

by David Banks

Orchid growers are always on the lookout for new and exciting varieties of plants to grow. Enthusiasts scour through nurseries and offerings at the various orchid fairs around the country invariably asking the vendors, "so what do you have that is new"?

Sadly, there has been a decline over the past decade or so in the number and size of specialist orchid nurseries around the country, with many actually being expanded backyard collections. The high costs, red tape and risks have caused a

major decline in the importation of live orchid plants to Australia. Many suppliers are constantly searching for and seeking out interesting material in flasks, especially from Taiwan, Thailand and Hawaii (USA).

That brings us to *Phaius* Lady Ramona Harris. This is an outstanding hybrid made and registered by Dr. Bill Southwood of Hawaii in 1998. It is a cross between an old 1892 primary hybrid *Phaius* *Gravesiae* (*tankervilleae* x *wallichii*) and the Madagascan *Phaius pulchra* var. *perrieri*, which is also known



Phaius Lady Ramona Harris
'Looking at You'
(plant: Hills District Orchids,
photo: David Banks)

as *Gastrorchis pulchra* var. *perrieri*. In fact, the Royal Horticultural Society has this hybrid listed in their data base under *Gastrophaius* (*Phaius* x *Gastrorchis*).

Commercial wholesale nurseryman Sam Cowie (who introduced this cultivar into Australia) recently told me that Glen Barfield of Okika Limited in Hawaii purchased some seedlings from a fellow orchid grower, probably the Tropical Orchid Farm in Maui, Hawaii and selected out 'Looking at You' from that batch. This cultivar later received a Highly Commended Certificate for the Tropical Orchid Farm in Hawaii, which was subsequently later upgraded to an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society.

Robertson Orchids sold mericlones of this cultivar at the 2011 and 2012 Southern Orchid Spectacular held at Caringbah NSW. Tinonee Orchid Nursery sold advanced plants at the Sydney International Orchid Fair, held at Castle Hill NSW in April 2012 and also a couple on Australian eBay. It was from

Ray Clement that I obtained my plant. I believe both nurseries quickly sold out, and are awaiting fresh stock which will see them available again in 2014.

I have been amazed with this plants vigour, its complete ease of culture, and its wide temperature tolerance. Our plant grows under 70% shadecloth in western Sydney, and experienced many winter mornings at the frost level. It readily takes the heat of summer as long as the plants are in a humid environment with plenty of air movement.

This plant is very quick growing in Southeast Queensland and will flower sometimes within 18 months from flask. Larger well grown plants will get up to four spikes per growth with up to 20 blooms per flowering stem. It is not uncommon for the leading growth to produce two or three new growths, whilst also coming away from older pseudobulbs.

The plant likes a coco-husk (OrchidMate) and perlite mix that holds moisture, but is free draining. It loves

water and enjoys being able to get its roots into water, sitting in a saucer under the pot during the warmer months. I also use 9 month low nitrogen Basacote on the top of the potting mix.

Apart from its attraction to orchid growers, it is also being used as an elite landscape plant. Landscaper Darryl Mappin from Mappin Design Group in Brisbane, puts gravel in the bottom of his water garden pots up to where the water level would be and then puts the potting mix above the water level, this way the plant can put its roots down into the water but without having the potting mix go sour.

So here we have a quality orchid for the hobbyist, gardener and the showbench. Look out for stocks in 2014. Thanks to Sam Cowie and Ray Clement for additional information. ■

David Banks
Hills District Orchids
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Above: Block of two year old *Phaius Lady Ramona Harris* plants growing in 180mm pots, just prior to spiking (photo: Sam Cowie)



Phaius Lady Ramona Harris
'Looking at You'
(plant: Hills District Orchids,
photo: David Banks)



Above: *Phaius Lady Ramona Harris*, note the open OrchidMate (coco-husk) mix and multiple new growths developing

Below: Mappin Design Group in Brisbane used *Phaius Lady Ramona Harris* and *Zygonesia Cynosure 'Blue Birds'* in this pond (photo: Darryl Mappin)



Note the different colours in
these *Phaius* Lady Ramona
Harris cultivars
(photo: Darryl Mappin)



Two Unique Hybrids from Gerardus Staal

by Andy Easton

Dr. Gerardus Staal is a retired entomologist, whose interest in orchids started in 1974 and developed into an orchid hybridising and propagating effort that continues today under the name of Peninsula Hybrids, in the Bay Area of California. Gerardus enjoys creating unusual hybrid combinations of cool and intermediate growing species plus the propagation of rare species. Two tri-generic hybrids have been named in his honour,

Staalara (*Laelia* x *Cattleya* x *Barkeria*) and *Gerardusara* (*Miltonia* x *Oncidium* x *Baptistonia*), as well as the species *Masdevallia staaliana*.

I am sure many of Gerardus' hybrids are made out of curiosity, and indeed from time to time produces some stunning and unexpected results. Below are a couple of his hybrids that have really impressed me and have potential for further breeding.

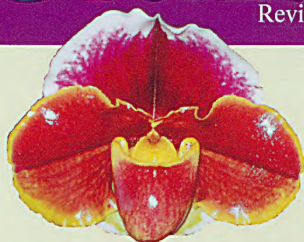
(Osmoglossum pulchellum *x Cyrtorchilum edwardii)*

A very unusual intergeneric hybrid made by the ever-curious Gerardus Staal. Small, compact plants with the *pulchellum* flower habit reversed to the non-resupinate presentation. Colour is intense but offset by a distinct white margin. The blooms are strongly fragrant and this hybrid is easy to grow under little more than frost protection.



Above: *Osmoglossum pulchellum* x *Cyrtorchilum edwardii*

Australian Orchid Review



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NSW 2147 AUSTRALIA

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AOR 065

Gerardusara Golden Emperor

Again from the prolific toothpick of Gerardus Staal, this is the most showy *Baptistonia echinata* hybrid to date. Some fragrance and very long-lasting, shortish inflorescences. Would expect the plant to have warmth-tolerance but we grow it easily in a cool house. It has made pods so now we must wait to see if they germinate. Amazing offspring for a *Baptistonia* hybrid. New Horizon Orchids named and registered this new intergeneric hybrid in his honour in 2009. It is a combination of *Odontonia* Yellow Parade with *Baptistonia echinata*.

Right:
Gerardusara
Golden Emperor



Left:
Baptistonia
echinata

Whilst I have spent most of my life with commercial orchid breeding (especially Cymbidiums), it has been the keen hobbyists who have been able to experiment and produce some often unique and wonderful results.

Andy Easton
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ACR 124

Unusual Colour Form of *Dendrobium toressae*

Text and photos by Michael Harrison

Many *Dendrobium* species are quite variable in their flowers, with many growers devoting large sections of their collections to the cultivation of a single species. *Dendrobium speciosum*, *D. kingianum* and *D. bigibbum* immediately come to mind.

Yet there are other species that show little variation, with almost all the plants having uniformed coloured flowers. I considered the miniature North Queensland species *Dendrobium toressae*, as being such a plant.

In 2009 I was given a tiny unflowered piece of this species that had originally come from the Beatrice River near Millaa Millaa at an altitude of about 600 metres. It has slowly grown on over the past three years and flowered for me for the first time in October 2012.

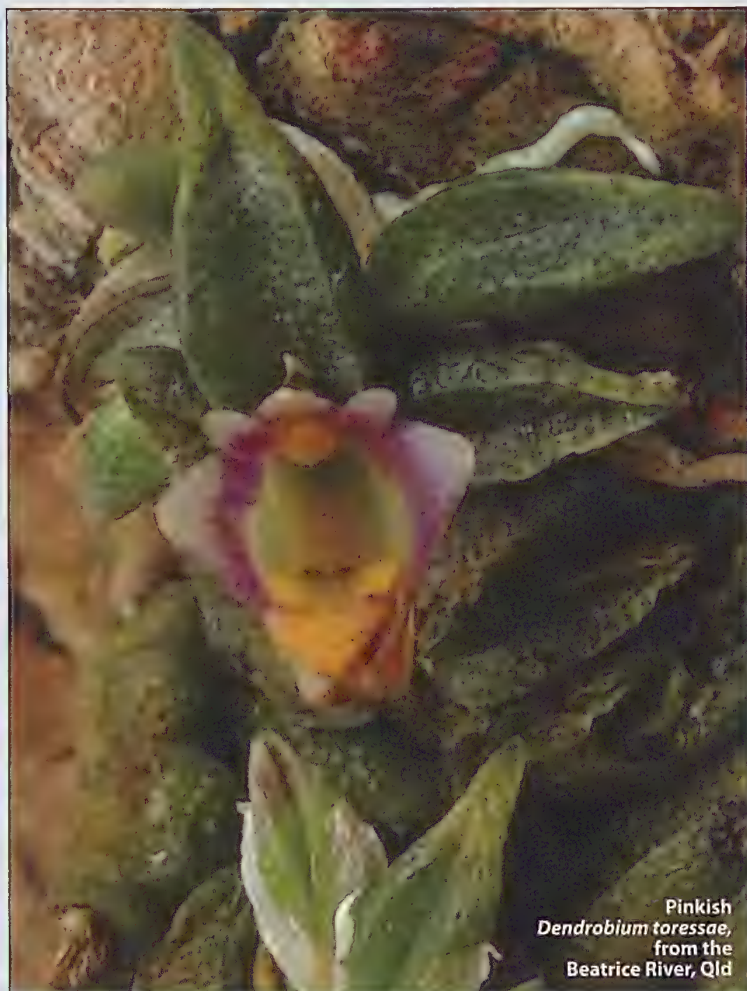
But what an amazing *Dendrobium toressae*! I've never seen anything like this colour form before. I spoke to a number of my fellow native orchid enthusiasts, and indeed none had heard of such a colour form with a halo of pink-purple around the flower. Checking the available literature also failed to see any mention of such a colour form or markings in what is generally a translucent creamy-yellowish to green flower. ■

Michael Harrison

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Plant Descriptions – in English

For more than two centuries, before a newly discovered plant could be officially recognised, its name had to be written in two terms, both with Latin endings, and its description (diagnosis) published in Latin. The reason for choosing Latin is that, when the rule was first introduced, Latin was the language of science, one that educated men from most (European) countries could read. Of course, that's no longer the case, and English is now the main language of science. This was recognised at the International Botanical Congress held in Melbourne last month, when the delegates modified the rules so that, from January 2012, the description

of any new botanical species may be written **either** in Latin **or** in English (in 200-500 words). However, the genus and species epithet names must still be written with Latin endings, as has always been the case.

One of the main reasons for the change is that botanists seeking to describe new species are having difficulty in finding Latin experts to check their descriptions before publication! Electronic publication is now also approved but (as before) only in recognised peer-reviewed journals.

Brian Milligan
Balwyn North, Victoria

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Cattleya Leoloddiglossa

Text and photos by Fred Clarke

Pretty cool, blue spotted blue flowers...

This is one of the newer bifoliate *Cattleya* hybrids of mine, which I registered in February 2010 as *Cattleya Leoloddiglossa*. It is a cross between *Cattleya Loddiglossa* 'Blues' and *Cattleya leopoldii* var. *coerulea*. However the hybrid is registered under *Cattleya tigrina*, not *leopoldii*, which the Royal Horticultural Society in the United Kingdom does not recognise as being distinct. (*Cattleya Loddiglossa* = *C. amethystoglossa* x *C. loddigesii*).

This is a new colour and form that I have been working on, parallel with my other breeding programmes and goals. It is a most unusual colour and the blooms have heaps of character. They are also strong growing plants.

Cattleya Plant Culture

Watering and Fertilising are related as water carries fertiliser into the root zone. Important for good *Cattleya* growth is to have their roots dry down between watering. I fertilise with every watering using a weak fertilised solution. In the summer when days are long and warm, the plants are in active growth and photosynthesis is at a high rate I water more. Usually 2 times a week, however during the hottest period I may water 3 times a week. During the cooler months watering once a week is generally satisfactory. Before watering I always check that the potting media has dried out sufficiently. Once a month I leach the pots where I water without fertiliser twice, one hour apart, this reduces any salt build ups.

Light levels, Temperature, and Air Movement. These are closely related as light raises temperature and air movement cools it. *Cattleyas* like light levels. For optimal growth I suggest growing under 60-65 % shade in winter and 70-75 % shade in summer. This is accomplished by adding a second layer of 30% shade cloth in late spring thru late summer. Also a Northern exposure or a location where the plants will receive plenty of bright, filtered light will work. I prefer to keep summer temperatures at about 24-30°C degree days and 15-24°C degree nights, for winter 18-26°C degree days and 12-15°C degree nights. *Cattleyas* are quite adaptable and short periods of higher or lower temperature usually don't damage the plants. In nature most *Cattleyas* are epiphytes growing high in trees where there is abundant air movement, your growing area needs to have good air movement.



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Cattleya Leoloddiglossa
'Speckled Blue'



Cattleya Leoloddiglossa
'SVO Blues'



Cattleya
Leoloddiglossa
'Coerulea'



Cattleya
Leoloddiglossa



Cattleya leopoldii
var. *coerulea*
(syn. *Cattleya tigrina*)

Potting mix and Pots: I prefer New Zealand Radiata Pine bark, with "Kiwi Orchid Bark" being the best; it is hard and lasts 3-5 years. Douglas fir bark is also satisfactory. I mix 3 parts bark with 1 part perlite. I strive for consistence in the potting media and adjust the particle size based on pot size. For 50-75mm pots I use fine grade bark and #2 perlite, for 100mm pots medium bark and #3 perlite and for 125mm plus pots large bark and #4 perlite. Plastic pots work well they are inexpensive, light weight and readily available, however clay pots may work better in hot humid climates, also baskets and cork slabs are suitable. Select a pot size that will allow for a maximum of 2-3 years of growth. Cattleyas don't like to be over-potted as oversized pots take too long to dry out causing root problems, remember an important key to good Cattleya culture is the drying down of root zone in between watering.

Re-potting and Dividing: Cattleyas generally start their growth cycle in the spring and summer. New growths may indicate new roots but I always wait until I see new root tips before re-potting as some plants will grow their roots after the growths mature. Please don't underestimate the importance of re-potting when new roots are starting to show, the stress on a newly potted plant is greatly reduced as the new roots will quickly re-establish it. Divisions should be made by cutting with a sterile tool or by pulling the bulbs apart. I try to keep the size of divisions between 3 and 5 pseudobulbs. I remove most of the old media from the root system, often the newest roots are tightly intertwined with the media and removing it is damaging to them. As a result I may leave 5-10% of the old media in place in an effort to not damage these newer tightly intertwined roots they are the most effective roots and minimising damage will lead to a quicker re-establishment.

I will be attending the St Ives Orchid Fair in Sydney in August 2013, and will be bringing a range of exciting new orchid hybrid flasks with me.

Fred Clarke
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www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com



Cattleya intermedia var. *amethystina*
'Aranbeem'
(plant: Aranbeem Orchids)

Cattleya intermedia

by Brian Milligan

This species orchid is probably the most well known of the bifoliate cattleyas – those bearing two leaves on each of their pseudobulbs. In general bifoliate cattleyas carry smaller flowers (but more of them) than the single-leaved cattleyas, and can withstand slightly cooler conditions. I grow a few bifoliate cattleya species in my heated glasshouse (min. temp. 11°C) and have friends who have great success with their bifoliate cattleyas in an unheated glasshouse in Melbourne.

Cattleya intermedia is a native of southern Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It grows at latitudes corresponding roughly to those of Rockhampton (Qld) in the north and Coffs Harbour (NSW) in the south, which gives one some idea of its preferred climate. *C. intermedia* is found along a 1000 km stretch of

coastline, although it is more common in the north, near Rio de Janeiro.

A Mr. J.J. Keevil found it growing on the small island of Santo Amaro, a short distance south of Rio in 1909 and wrote the following description of its habitat: "on the south and east it faces the Atlantic, with hilly islets, lovely sandy bays and coves, interspersed with steep granite headlands. On the west and north it is separated from Santos Island and the mainland by narrow sea channels. It is eighteen miles long by six broad. The interior consists of mangrove swamps, granite hills up to 1000 ft. high covered with forest, and old raised sandy beaches with low scrub. *Cattleya intermedia*, of several varieties, including *alba*, exists in a variety of positions. They will



Cattleya intermedia var. *orlata*
(plant: J & S Atwal)

colonise a few square yards on top of a bare granite boulder, surrounded by the tide, dashed by the spray and subjected to scorching sun and every wind. They also exist high on the branches of trees 1000 ft. above sea level. Their special metropolis, however, is a narrow, windswept, marshy valley, with the ocean at both ends, and a steep granite headland and hill at the sides. In a space of an acre there are many thousands. One has to wade to the knees in mud and swampy water. The gnarled, crowded trees are stunted by the wind to a seven-foot growth. Every trunk and branch teems with sturdy plants of *C. intermedia*, their roots stretching to the perennial moisture below. In April and May their flowers are resplendent."

Other orchids found growing in the vicinity of *Cattleya intermedia* in nature include *Cattleya leopoldii*, *Oncidium flexuosum*, *Promenaea* spp., *Gongora* spp. and numerous pleurothallids and maxillarias. Thank you to David Banks for providing the accompanying photos. ■

Brian Milligan

Balwyn North, Victoria



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What will be our Legacy to the Next Generation of Orchid Growers?

by Andy Easton

One of my great pleasures in orchid growing was meeting Bob Friend from Australia, back in the early 2000's when he visited Delray Beach in Florida. Bob was an educator, a mentor, who believed in passing on the orchid lore and cultural skills that he had accumulated in his lifetime. Are we, as the current aging generation of orchidists, making similar plans to mentor enthusiastic new growers and to pass on our varied legacy of orchid breeding stock, rare varieties and experience?

In 2011, we made the decision to offer the full selection of our hobbyist *Cymbidium* varieties in flask to anyone around the world, with special focus on growers in Australia. Why Australia? Because it was my belief that in Australia lay the best chance to disseminate key breeding stock for future enthusiasts. I hope I am not offending anyone by saying people like my friends Dr. Julian Coker and Clive Halls are probably not the future of *Cymbidium* or *Odontoglossum* Alliance hybridising! But they and people like them, represent a lifetime of orchid knowledge, there for the absorbing.

Where will these young folk come from? Basically anywhere! It might be the senior high school student, recently bitten with the "orchid bug" who visits the local orchid society, it may be the workmate who stops by to visit and sees your shadehouse or it can be the "newbie" visiting their first orchid show and literally becoming fascinated by the beauty and variety of orchids before them. Any and all of these folk can be the orchid enthusiasts of the future.

When I started growing orchids at the age of ten, I was a real pest! I looked and asked and looked and asked. I wrote

letters. Keith Andrew, the doyenne of English orchid hybridisers, answered those letters. I'm sure every time he received one, he would have thought, it's that bloody kid, again!



Left:
Cyrtorchilum macranthum
from a sibling cross -
likely 4n treated by Bob
Hamilton, that just got an
FCC for Howard Liebman

But he answered them, in detail and he started my orchid education. Still going strong, in his mid-80's and still making hybrids, he has been and still is, a wonderful mentor. Who are the Keith Andrew equivalents in Australia today?

Now, more importantly, what will I do for the future? We already share dry seed and pollen worldwide and worldwide includes Australia. This will continue. Are you a young enthusiast (or even an older enthusiast!) and if you are, what can I do for you? Because I am rapidly becoming the past and you just might be part of the orchid future. Do you have questions about *Cymbidiums*, the *Odontoglossum* Alliance and general orchid culture? If you e-mail me, I will promise to answer. Might we have something that you are dying to make a hybrid with? If we have it, maybe we can share some pollen and help you make the hybrid. And it's not just about us. Look around and in every State you will find quality orchid growers who would be honoured to share their knowledge and all the other good things that go along with an orchid-growing relationship.

In the United States, a whole generation of great orchidists have passed on and much of their anecdotal knowledge has been lost. Ernest Hetherington has been a capable and prolific orchid writer so his vast orchid knowledge has been partially captured. Leo Holguin was a master orchid hybridiser but wrote sparingly. Sadly, it is only the few who knew him as a friend and colleague who really got to share a treasure trove of orchid savvy. Do you see the parallels in your country? I'm not talking about the windbags who know it all and in reality know very little. But I'm sure there are key older people in every state who have serious orchid knowledge and most would love to share it.

And if you're becoming an older orchid grower, like me, look for these keen new enthusiasts. I currently have a couple of *Cattleya* fanatics, a *Paphiopedilum* fanatic and several warmth-tolerant *Cymbidium* enthusiasts overseas who constantly challenge me with thoughtful questions and perceptive observations. More's the merrier! Let's pool our knowledge and move orchids forward as a legacy for our children, grandchildren and beyond.

Andy Easton

Salinas, CA, U.S.A.

Email: andy.easton@sbcglobal.net



Left:
Vuylstekeara Nova
bred by Bob Hamilton.
This is a breakthrough
hybrid for warmer growing
lines and it shows that the
alba/albino gene for
Miltonia spectabilis forma
alba is at the same locus as
the albino *Odontioda*

Right:
Wilsonara John Miller
is another Bob Hamilton
hybrid. Bob crossed
Oncidium trilobum with
Odontoglossum pescatorei
(*nobile*), both diploids and
treated the seed with
oryzalin. A number of
tetraploid forms appeared,
one of which he pollinated
with *Oda. Burning Bed*, a
possible tetraploid solid red
Odontioda with quite large
flower size. The seedlings
have been quite variable, as
one might expect, with
some spotted or patterned
and others in solid colours.
This one is the best to date
with heavy substance and
flowers about 80mm in
diameter. On a mature plant
some branching should
appear. This is quite simply
the best red *Wilsonara* I
have seen to date. I am in
awe of what Bob has
accomplished in one
generation from
Odcdm. Tribbles 4n





Cymbidium William Pownall 'Grandad' 4n – a New Horizon Orchids hybrid of mine, taking the Australian *Cymbidium madidum* in a totally different direction. These have been big arching sprays (30-ish flowers on first bloom) from the crossing Fifi 'Harry' 4n x Garnet 4n so involvement of four major species, *madidum*, *parishii*, *lowianum* and *insigne*. Flowers extremely long-lasting in late Spring. To give you some indication of how much I like the cross, it is now registered as William Pownall, for my maternal grandfather, who started my enthusiasm for growing plants

My Five Favourite Orchids

Text and photos by Patricia Harding

It's show and tell at the local orchid society and I get to bring my five favourite plants! If you saw my greenhouse you'd realise I have a hard time with this concept as I have many favourites. I realised there was a problem when my husband and I decided to move to Brazil and I needed to sell my plants, so I went out to start the process and couldn't come up with one that I could part with. We still haven't moved, for many reasons, but still I see this sickness as part of the hurdle to be dealt with. Today, for you, I am limited to five so here goes.

My all time favourite plant is *Anacheilium simum* (syn. *Prosthechea sima*, depending on your taxonomic preferences). This plant was obtained 40 years ago in Belize by a local collector who was there on vacation and he has sold divisions over the years. I bought it at a discount on the last day of a show; I bought it because it was cheap, not because I knew

what I was buying. It bloomed, and I was hooked. Long before I started working with Carl Withner on this group, this plant was a favourite. I was delighted when Carl proposed a book project covering *Anacheilium*.

This plant grows as a clump, the rhizome is short, and so it is easy to have a nice specimen plant. For me I have grown it in cool and warm conditions and it doesn't seem to care. I give it less water in the winter, mostly because my whole greenhouse gets that treatment due to the Pacific Northwest long grey winters and springs and then daily watering the rest of the year. When it blooms all the inflorescences on the plant tend to open at the same time and the plant will stay in bloom for 6-8 weeks. The flowers are 6-8 cm wide, 4-6 per inflorescence, with a crystalline sparkle, and the red reverse of the sepals and petals is absolutely striking.



*Anacheilium
simum*

My second choice is from the same genus, *Anacheilium allemanoides*. This is the same species (misidentified as *Anacheilium allemanii*) on the back cover of the book *Cattleyas and their Relatives: Debatable Epidendrums*. An imported plant of *Anacheilium allemanoides* was awarded in a neighbouring state and I had put in a request for a division yet never obtained one. I had also tried ordering this species from importers many times, only to have the plant bloom and have it be something else. Two years ago, I visited the Caliman nursery in Espírito Santo, Brazil and he gave me a division. Unfortunately, importation of plants from Brazil is problematic so my friend Marcos Campaci has the plant, and he still has it, but as he didn't label it, I have to wait till it blooms so he can find it again. Last year a plant I had bought a few years before bloomed, mislabelled true to tradition, and whoopee...I have one. It is in bloom today! This one I grow warmer and wetter, but still this is only cool intermediate conditions.



*Anacheilium
allemanoides*

My third choice is *Brasilelaia crispa* (syn. *Laelia crispa*, *Cattleya crispa* and a host of others all in the last ten years). I have several of these and though they put out new growth every year they bloom only every 3-5 years for me. We just don't have enough light for them to be reliable here in the northwest. There is something about the purple lip with the white picotee that is a real draw for me, and I love seeing them in Brazil at the shows.



*Brasilelaia
crispa*

My fourth choice is *Encyclia gallopavina*, a Brazilian species. I have only seen it once in bloom. The plant is beautiful in itself. The baseball size pseudobulb is dark green with the sheen of a clean bowling ball. You just want to reach out and rub it like a piece of dark polished jade. The inflorescence is long and subtended with huge, for *Encyclia*, richly coloured flowers. I don't own one...yet.



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*Encyclia
gallopavina*

My last but certainly not least is *Huntleya wallisii*. This species may just be an extreme variation of *Huntleya burtii*, but what a variation. The flowers can be huge, 20 cm or more across, with a shiny hot red to the sepals and petals. There is usually only one flower per plant or growth, but the heart probably couldn't stand much more. When these appear at Latin American shows they either get best plant in the show or at least first in their class. They are difficult to grow even by the best Latin American cultivators. The plants are large, but if I had space and conditions even remotely close I would love to try one.

I have been fortunate to have travelled many places, and can claim the viveros and greenhouses of friends' as my own. Still it's never the same as having the plants as one of your

"own". As I finish this article I think - would this have been my list 5 years ago? And even more abstract a thought-- what will the list be like in 5 or 10 years? Something to look forward to. Acquisitions Ho!

(Patricia Harding is an orchid enthusiast who enjoys taxonomy issues, writing and explaining the issues to fellow enthusiasts. She has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades and travels extensively to study and photograph orchids in the wild. She is an accredited American Orchid Society judge in the Pacific Northwest Judging Centre and holds degrees in botany and medicine. She is the author of *Huntleyas and Related Orchids*).

Patricia Harding
email: pjh@centurytel.net

*Huntleya
wallisii*



Variation within the slipper orchid *Paphiopedilum insigne*

Text and photos by David Banks

Paphiopedilum insigne is a very popular orchid species from Nepal and northern India. It is documented that it grows as a lithophyte on limestone outcrops near streams or waterfalls in light shade at altitudes of between 1000m and 1500m altitude.

This slipper orchid is commonly referred to as an ideal beginner's subject and actually features in quite a few gardeners' collections who only maintain a few orchids, without elaborate shade or glasshouses. It is also a most important species horticulturally, being in the ancestry of almost all of the modern "complex" *Paphiopedilum* hybrids.

This winter-flowering species generally has glossy, brownish yellow long-lasting flowers heavily spotted in red-brown. This is the typical form of the species, and the one most common in cultivation. It is a cool growing species (which also handles summer heat) that readily grows into a specimen. Most orchid enthusiasts are very familiar with the "common" form of this species.

However there has been some confusion with the correct names applied to some of the different "varieties" which in fact are probably best regarded as colour forms. Because it has been such a successful plant in both Australia and New Zealand, there are surprisingly few distinct forms encountered in our collections today. Compared to some of the more flamboyant members of the genus, *P. insigne* is indeed quite bland. I would suggest the plants we currently have in cultivation have been divisions of plants imported more than half a century ago. I certainly know of no fresh importations of this species, at least over the past three decades. Again I know of no current line-breeding being undertaken with this species, with priority apparently

being given to some of the rarer species and albino forms of other popular taxa.

I have seen at least two distinct variegated leafed forms of this species, with the flowers a good match for the Type form. The variegation can be quite variable with one of the clones I am growing having a tendency to "revert" back to plain green leaves when it gets into a multiple growth phase. Careful dividing on larger clumps (to remove the "green" section) will help maintain the variegated foliage. Obviously this is a specialist plant for collectors are variegated orchids are still quite uncommon.

Paphiopedilum insigne,
the typical form
found in cultivation
(plant: Hills District Orchids)





Paphiopedilum insigne,
the common form
grown in New Zealand

There is also a hybrid (possibly a natural one) between *P. insigne* and the closely related *P. villosum* (registered in 1877 as *P. Nitens*), that is often benched under the former name. It can also be readily distinguished from true *P. insigne* by the distinct hairs along the flower stem (in *insigne* it is felt-like).

Some of the "varieties" in cultivation:

When this species was first described many hundreds (thousands?) of plants were exported back to wealthy plantmen in Great Britain. Being such a variable species, many different forms were encountered, and these were described as botanical "varieties" much in the same way we today apply cultivar names/epithets to distinct or quality examples of a given species. Sadly, many of these named clones have long been lost in cultivation and their only legacy is in watercolours made of some of them over a century ago.

Apart from the typical or Type form of the species, the following named clones and varieties are the most examples commonly encountered in cultivation.



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Paphiopedilum insigne var. *sanderiae*

This is "almost" the albino form of the species. I say almost because it displays some fine light to dark brown pepper spotting in a small cluster at the base of the dorsal sepal. From a distance it looks like a bright yellow to greenish-yellow form of the species, but close examination reveals its true identity. There have been sellings of this form distributed throughout New Zealand which maintain this genetic trait, and these appear to be more vigorous than some of the original plants. A vigorous form grown in the Sydney district has been grown and propagated from a single plant over 50 years ago, and quickly forms specimen plants. This form is in the background of many of the yellow and green complex *Paphiopedilum* hybrids popular today.

Paphiopedilum insigne var. *albomarginatum*

This form is almost identical to the above mentioned *sanderiae*, however is the true albinistic variety without any pepper spotting. The varietal epithet refers to the distinct white border around the greenish-yellow dorsal sepal. Sometimes seen in cultivation under the synonym of *Paphiopedilum insigne* var. *sanderianum* or as *P. insigne* 'Royalty'. This form appears to be rarer than the var. *sanderiae*. It does not have the same vigour as the coloured forms of the species and should only be divided when multi-growth plants naturally fall apart when repotting.

Paphiopedilum insigne var. *sanderiae* (left)
& var. *albomarginatum*
(plant: Hills District Orchids)



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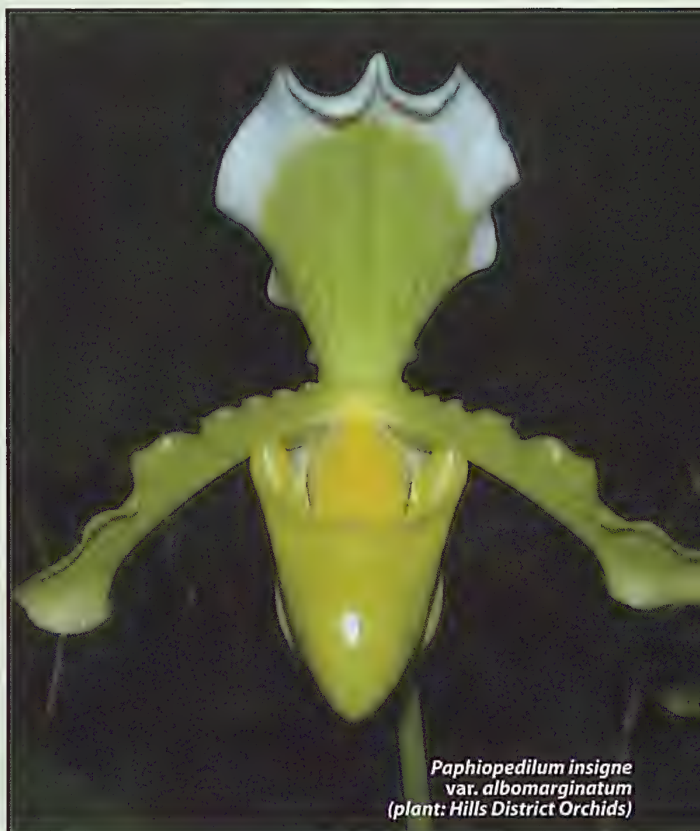
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Paphiopedilum insigne
var. *sanderae*
(plant: Hills District Orchids)



Paphiopedilum insigne
var. *albomarginatum*
(plant: Hills District Orchids)



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SARCOCHILUS SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

Allen-Ikeson, Jean. 2011

Published by the American Orchid Society as a supplement to Volume 80 of *Orchids – The Bulletin of the AOS*.

This is a handy guide to the cool growing Australian *Sarcochilus*. Descriptions of the species and their uses in hybridising are included along with information on how to grow *Sarcochilus*.

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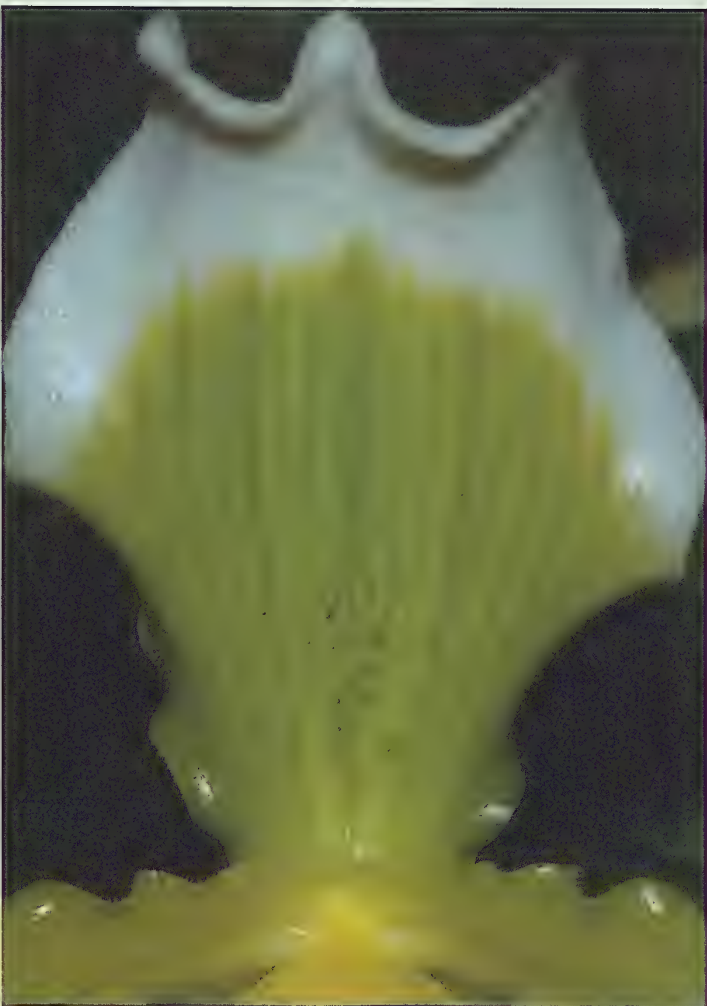
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Above left:
Paphiopedilum insigne var. *sanderiae*,
dorsal sepal - note fine pepper spotting
(plant: Hills District Orchids)

Above right:
Paphiopedilum insigne var. *albomarginatum*,
dorsal sepal - note lack of spotting
(plant: Hills District Orchids)

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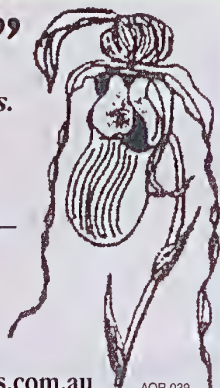
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AOR 039

Paphiopedilum insigne 'Harefield Hall'

Now it is important to remember that this is a famous named cultivar, not a variety. So all the plants of the true or real 'Harefield Hall' have been actual divisions taken off the original plant. So there is NO variation at all, which greatly helps identification – however (at least in Australia) there are many imitations masquerading under this name. A lack of understanding and education amongst some judges and show marshalls has not helped the situation (with many obvious hybrids being accepted and judged as this example of the species). This cultivar has most impressive blooms that are significantly larger (about twice the surface area) than the typical form of the species. The dorsal sepal is broad with distinctive bold spotting that is consistent from year to year. Chromosome counts have shown this plant to be a triploid, hence the difficulty in using this clone in hybrids, and I know of no successful attempts of selfing this plant that has resulted in seedlings. It is also a slightly larger and robust plant, and is a must-have for slipper orchid and species enthusiasts.

Cultivation:

Paphiopedilum insigne is best grown in deep pots with a well drained, bark-based medium with some coconut chips being most suitable for this species. Select a pot size that fits the roots snugly, as they will not tolerate stagnant conditions around the root system. Pot the plant so that it is only slightly buried, 20mm is enough, as often the roots will push the plant out of the mix, and any exposed new roots can become dry and not develop further. They need to be kept moist throughout the year with additional water applied during the warmer months. Like all slipper orchids, this species enjoys frequent misting of the foliage. It will take quite a range of temperatures, from just below the frost level (for short periods of time) to extreme heat of summer (as long as high humidity is maintained, otherwise the plant will scorch and will become severely disfigured). Plants grown out of doors will take a few hours of morning filtered sun, whereas most have success growing this species in the shadehouse under 70% shade cloth. In fact this is a very popular species for gardeners who are not pure orchid enthusiasts.



Paphiopedilum insigne (left)
& *Paphiopedilum insigne*
'Harefield Hall'
(plant: Hills District Orchids)

Paphiopedilum insigne is a lovely species in its own right, and a well-bloomed specimen in full flower is always a memorable sight that will reward the growers for many weeks in prime condition. I am sure if it was rarer more people would pay it the time and respect it deserves. Time to move it from the back of the bushhouse!

David Banks
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Paphiopedilum insigne
'Harefield Hall'
(plant: Hills District Orchids)

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Paphiopedilum nitens
(primary hybrid between
insigne & *villosum*)



Zygopetalums – Epiphytes or Terrestrials?

by Brian Milligan

Most of us have a few zygopetalums in our orchid collections. *Zygopetalum* B.G. White, *Z. Blackii* and *Z. Titanic* are three common hybrids, while the most popular species grown is *Zygopetalum intermedium*, often mislabelled as *Zygopetalum mackayi* (which in fact is more correctly known as *Zygopetalum maculatum*), which is rare in Australia. With few exceptions, all are potted in pine bark or coco-coir.

My zygopetalums have always been grown in pine bark, with the odd exception of back-bulbs or small leafless divisions that I've 'struck' in *Sphagnum* moss until they've developed a respectable root system.

Recently I came across an article entitled *Zygopetalum – An Abandoned Genus of Beauty* in *The American Orchid Society Bulletin* (1976, 45, 4). The author, Dr. Barão Anton de Ghillány, at that time a resident of São Paulo (Brazil), obviously spent much of his free time looking for native orchids in habitat. To my surprise he reported that many of the 22 known *Zygopetalum* species are terrestrials, rather than epiphytes as I had imagined. For example, he reported that *Zygopetalum maculatum* (*mackayi*), *Z. intermedium*, *Z. bolivianum* and *Z. triste* all grow as terrestrials in nature.

Zygopetalum intermedium is apparently a rather widely distributed, common species which can be distinguished from *Z. maculatum* by its long leaves that curve under their own weight; the leaves are also narrower than those of *Z. maculatum*. De Ghillány describes *Z. intermedium* as "a soil-growing species found near streams and in the shady ditches of fields and woods or under rocks nearly everywhere in the states of Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. The flowers are relatively large with sepals and petals a greenish yellow with big patches of purple-brown and a round lip covered with radiating purple veins".

By contrast *Zygopetalum crinitum* is an epiphyte that grows on the branches of rough-barked trees in rainforest country in the above Brazilian states. *Z. maxillare* is also an epiphyte and is found growing only on certain species of tree fern. It has rather a long rhizome between its pseudo-bulbs, a trait that it confers to some of its hybrids, such as *Zygopetalum* Blue Eyes.

Based on the above information it would seem logical to grow *Z. intermedium* and some of its hybrids in a terrestrial mix, rather than in the conventional bark or coir mix used by most.

On the other hand, hybrids of *Z. maxillare* (such as *Z. Blue Eyes*) might do better if grown on a tree fern mount. This system would also suit the propensity of this hybrid to 'climb out' of its mix when grown in a pot. Perhaps best of all would be to grow it on a tree fern mount that is 'planted' in a pot of pine bark mix. ■

Brian Milligan
Balwyn North, Victoria

Zygopetalum crinitum





Zygopetalum Kiwi Choice
'Eileen'

Zygopetalum Inky Dinky
'Negus'



Zygopetalum Kiwi Choice

De-Flasking Orchids

by André Cleghorn (Flora Laboratories)

Preparation of materials

- Sieve some fine pine bark (3-5 mm) to remove any dust and fill a plastic pot with it.
- Pour boiling water over the bark to sterilise it and remove any remaining dust. Allow it to cool.
- Fill another pot with medium pine bark (8-10 mm) and sieve and sterilise in the same way with boiling water.
- If the seedlings are to be planted into used containers, these will have to be disinfected beforehand and for this job I recommend that you soak them in 10% White King (0.4% sodium hypochlorite) for at least half an hour.
- Lastly, as far as preparations go, fill the pots or punnets to a quarter of their depth with the coarse pine bark for drainage and then cover with a layer of fine pine bark.

De-flasking procedure

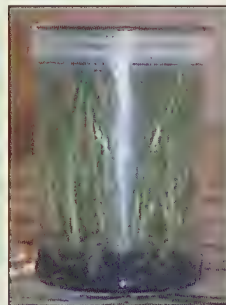
- Choose plants that have a good root system, but are not too crowded. Fewer large plants are better than many small ones.
- Fill a container with tepid boiled water and carefully hold the clump of the seedlings over the container with the roots only in the water and wash all the agar from the roots.
- Spread the plants onto paper towelling and allow them to partially dry and harden for about 20 mins.
- Place the seedlings into the prepared pots and fill with mix. It is usually better to plant 10-15 seedlings in a punnet or pot (100-150 mm) than to individually plant into 25 mm tubes.

Growing On

- Place the plants into a humid box; a Yates seedling tray and Grow Top are ideal but a foam fruit box covered with a sheet of glass is also suitable.
- For the first week leave the air vents closed, provide heavy shading and place in a warm position, preferably indoors near a south-facing window.
- Check the plants daily for excess humidity and if they are too wet open the vents for a while.
- After the first week open the air vents of the humid box but leave under heavy shading. A week later remove the Grow Top and reduce the level of shading. The plants may appear a little stressed with some leaf tip burn, but this is better than allowing them to become too soft and weak under high humidity.
- After about one month move the plants to your normal seedling growing area, which should preferably be a protected part of your greenhouse with overhead covering and 70% shading in summer.
- If you spray the seedlings with an anti-transpirant oil (for example, 'Envy') you can more quickly reduce the humidity because the oil will reduce water loss by the plant's leaves.

Remember

- Fungicides are not needed unless the seedlings are obviously infected with fungi.
- Spring and autumn are the best times for de-flasking unless you are able to provide bottom heat during winter or can keep the plants inside your house.
- Make the changes in humidity, temperature and light intensity from flask to greenhouse for your seedlings as gradual as possible.



Above: Cymbidiums ready to be de-flasked



Right: Paphiopedilums in flask

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AOR 010



Basic Slipper Orchid Culture

by Ray Clement

Paphiopedilums, more commonly known as Slipper Orchids, are shade-loving plants from areas throughout Asia, where they usually grow amongst rocks, moss and leaf litter in damp but well-drained positions. Blooms are long lasting and are available in a range of colours. There are three main styles of flowers, popular amongst growers. These are the complex hybrids which have large round flowers with broad segments and bloom during the winter. The second group are the "Maudiae" types which have attractive tessellated leaves and smaller and often striped flowers. The third group are the multi-florals, sometimes with 4 or 5 flowers on a stem. They have long strap-like green leaves and are the slowest to grow and reach maturity.

Temperature & Light

Protection from frosts is necessary, especially for the Maudiae and multi-floral types, but otherwise slippers are tolerant of a broad range of temperatures. Slippers thrive in conditions soft ferns such as maidenhair enjoy. The multi-floral group will enjoy a little brighter light than the other two groups, with many growers hanging these plants up.

Watering & Fertilising

Watering should be sufficient to keep the root system just damp. It is important to avoid over watering even short dry periods are OK. The root system on paphiopedilums can be

Two colour morphs of *Paphiopedilum Maudiae*, with the albino (green & white) below the "coloratum" form



Pests & Diseases

Slippers appear resistant to orchid virus. Fungus can develop on the leaves or in the leaf axils, usually due to over-watering. Mealy bug can sometimes attack leaves and roots but is easily controlled with Rogor or similar. These plants are relatively pest-free.

Paphiopedilums are attractive plants with curious and long lasting flowers. They are very rewarding to grow in a shady, moist environment or in the home grown the same way as African violets.

(all photos by David Banks of plants grown by Hills District Orchids).

Ray Clement

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Paphiopedilum Susan Booth 'Jannine' is an example of a multifloral or strap-leaved slipper orchid hybrid



easily damaged if the potting medium is old, or the plants are over-watered. As a guide, water twice a week in summer and once a week in winter, depending on the weather, of course. It is best to water during the morning in winter and evenings during summer. Try to avoid water lying on the leaves for lengthy periods. Include a balanced (flowering formula) fertiliser in the water at half the recommended strength, every second watering. A dusting of Dolomite occasionally will add calcium and help keep the potting medium sweet.

Potting

A standard pot just big enough to contain the root system is adequate. Use a mix of large grade OrchidMate Coconut Husk Chips or pine bark with added perlite, styrene or charcoal. The potting medium must be coarse enough to allow good drainage but still remain damp for a few days. As a guide, in a 150 mm pot use 10-15 mm bark.



Acanthephippium mantinianum
(photo: Ravan Schneider)

Acanthephippium mantinianum

by Jim Cootes

Members of the genus *Acanthephippium* are seldom seen in any but the most specialised and comprehensive of species orchid collections. One of the reasons for this could be because of the big plants, and the smallish blooms on short inflorescences. It also seems that few of the 15 or so species which comprise the genus, are actually in cultivation.

Orchid nurseries from the Philippines occasionally list one species - *Acanthephippium mantinianum*, and over the years I have imported the odd plant or two, when it was less expensive to do so.

The genus *Acanthephippium* was established by Dr. Carl Blume in 1825, in his *Bijdragen tot de Flora van Nederlandsch Indie*. The type species for the genus is *Acanthephippium javanicum*.

Plants of *Acanthephippium mantinianum* can be quite large, with the conical pseudobulbs reaching heights of 15 to 20 cm and about 5 cm in diameter at the base. The pseudobulbs are surrounded by papery sheaths initially, and are topped with a number of thinly-textured, lanceolate leaves which can be up to 60 cm long by 15 cm in width. The inflorescence is slightly longer than the pseudobulb and can bear up to 8 flowers, which do not open widely. If blooms are pollinated, the inflorescence will increase in length, in an attempt to get the seed distributed further away from the mother plant. The colour of the blooms ranges from yellow to cream, on the outer surface of the floral segments. The inner surface varies from solid red to yellow, with red striping in varying degrees.



Acanthephippium mantinianum
growing in situ at Lake Danao
(photo: Ronny Boos)

The mid lobe of the labellum can be white to cream, with the ridges and claws being bright yellow, there is also sparse red spotting.

In nature this unusual but very interesting terrestrial species is found at elevations of between 500 and 1,500 metres, where it grows amongst the leaf litter on the forest floor. Sometimes its surroundings are quite brightly lit, but other plants grow, and flower in deep shade. It also likes to grow along the edges of tracks and on the banks of creeks. Plants have even been observed growing epiphytically, but this is a very rare occurrence.

The cultivation of this species poses no major problems. It does best in a plastic pot, in a typical *Cymbidium* mix, which should be kept damp but never too wet. It enjoys 80% shade, constant air movement, high humidity and a minimum of 12 degrees Celsius during the colder months. Regular applications of both organic and inorganic fertilisers at half the manufacturer's recommendation should encourage stronger growth.

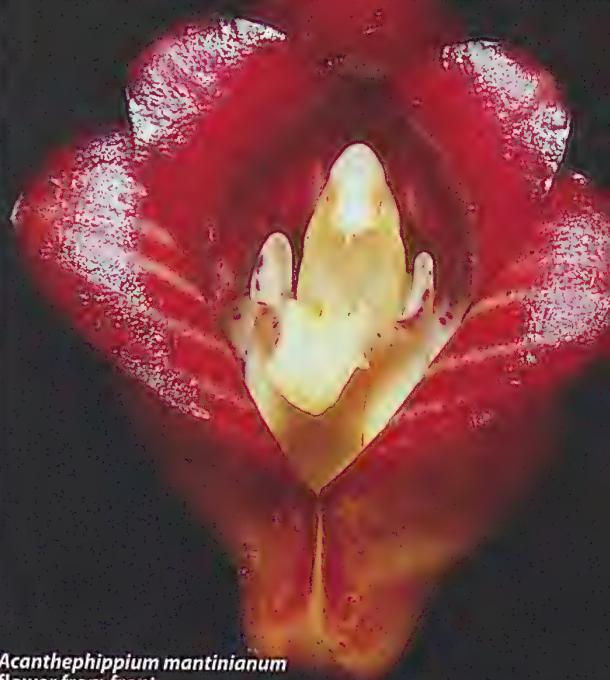
Reference:

Cootes J. 2011. *Philippine Native Orchid Species*. Katha Publishing, Philippines

Acknowledgements:

My sincere thanks to Ronny Boos, and Ravan Schneider, from the Philippines, for the use of their *in situ* pictures. Dr. Nelson Geraldino (Philippines) also allowed us to use his image of the bright yellow clone of *Acanthephippium mantinianum*.

Jim Cootes
Riverwood, NSW
Email: jecootes@ozemail.com.au



Acanthephippium mantinianum
flower from front
(photo: Ravan Schneider)

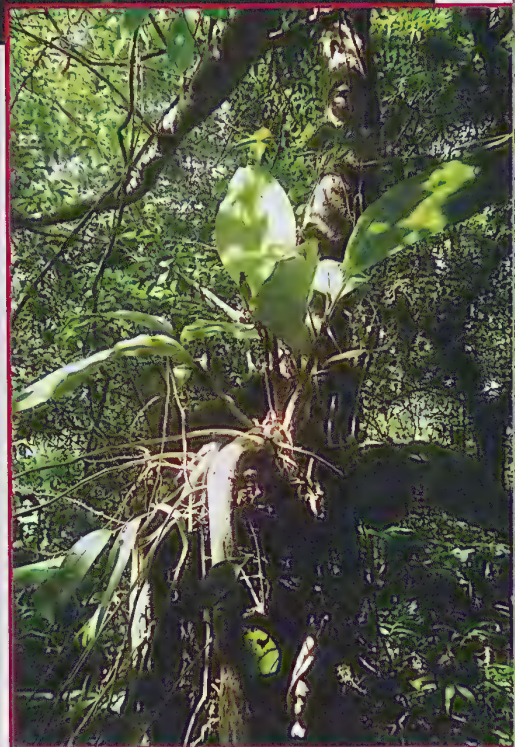


Acanthephippium mantinianum
flower from side
(photo: Ravan Schneider)



Acanthephippium mantinianum
bright yellow form
(photo: Dr. Nelson Geraldino)

Below: *Acanthephippium mantinianum* growing on the forest floor (photo: Ravan Schneider)



Above: *Acanthephippium mantinianum*
growing epiphytically at Biliran



Above: Habitat shot with sandstone boulders providing a home for *Dendrobium speciosum* and *Liparis reflexa*, Olney State Forest NSW

Cymbidium suave growing on *Casuarina* host

Text and photos by John Roberts

Our *Cymbidium suave* is a very common orchid along eastern Australia. It generally makes its home in *Eucalyptus* or *Angophora* tree stumps, tree hollows, and weathered parts and scars of mature trees that have lost branches and left rotten and hollowed cavities favoured by many birds, animals...and of course our native cymbidiums.

There are always exceptions to the rule, and whereas this grassy-leaved epiphyte has a serious preference to growing in the decaying heartwood of various species of gum trees (*Eucalyptus* spp.); we have also observed it on a handful of other hosts. These include Old-man Banksia (*Banksia serrata*), Broad-leaved paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) and the gum-tree relative Brushbox (*Lophostemon confertus*) from the Myrtaceae.

David Banks recently took me to a patch of forest at the Olney State Forest, at the south-western limits of the Watagan Mountains, west of Lake Macquarie, NSW. This was open sclerophyll forest with a predominance of *Eucalyptus* and *Casuarina*. Orchids we found growing on the sandstone cliffs and boulders included *Dendrobium speciosum*, *Liparis reflexa* and *Bulbophyllum exiguum*. We also saw a number of healthy elkhorn ferns (*Platycerium bifurcatum*) growing as epiphytes.

What got our attention was the abnormally high numbers of very healthy specimens of *Cymbidium suave* growing on the Forest Oak *Casuarina torulosa* (now more correctly *Allocasuarina torulosa*). Ironically, there were very few of these orchids on any of the gum trees, and we estimated that over 90% of the plants in this population grow exclusively on the thick and cork-like hard bark of the Forest Oak.



Above: Young plant of *Cymbidium suave* on a Forest Oak, Olney State Forest NSW

It was obvious that the seedlings had originally germinated on the deep crevasses of the bark, and had their roots running down the furrows and the bark itself, without appearing to enter the heartwood of these "oaks". Many grew on the main trunks of the trees, but many had also made their home amongst horizontal branches higher up in the canopy. It was interesting to notice how many of the older plants had already begun to colonise other parts of the tree via long stolons that reappear some distance from the main plant. The number and timing of the production of these stolons is poorly understood, but is a feature of the biology of our native cymbidiums.



Right: Healthy plant of *Cymbidium suave* thriving on a Forest Oak, Olney State Forest NSW

Below: *Cymbidium suave*
Mt Faulk, Watagans NSW
(photo: David Banks)





So why were these plants in this part of the forest almost exclusively growing on Forest Oaks? We are not sure! As we have seen colonies of *Cymbidium suave* on the eastern parts of the Watagans (which do have a greater annual rainfall) that form massive plants on various very old gum trees. Forest Oaks are in the same area, yet no cymbidiums are growing on them. Are there mycorrhizal fungi exclusive to the host tree that assists germination?

Closer to home, this year I also saw a healthy *Cymbidium suave* growing on a Forest Oak at the 185 metre volcanic peak of Pages Pinnacle in the Numinbah Valley of South-eastern Queensland.

It seems the more we learn, the less we know! I was reminded by a lecture that David attended over 25 years ago, by the late Jim Rentoul. Who famously said, "orchids grow, where orchids grow".

John Roberts
"Tangara", Advancetown, Qld
Email: john.mandy2@hotmail.com

Left: *Cymbidium suave* growing on a Forest Oak limb in the Numinbah Valley, Queensland

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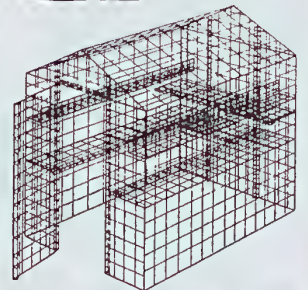
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Cymbidium suave
in the stump of a
white stringybark
(*Eucalyptus globoidea*),
lower Blue Mountains, NSW





Corybas diemenicus
Is the Stately Helmet Orchid,
also known as
Corysanthes diemenicus
is endemic to
south-eastern Australia.
First Place, Best in Exhibition
(photo © David L. Pliko)

Melbourne Exhibition of Orchid Photography

The recent Melbourne Exhibition of Orchid Photography was a great success having 108 entries from a number of different photographers, only about half involved with orchid growing. About half the exhibitors came from photographic societies, Field Naturalists clubs and conservation groups. It was good to introduce so many new people to the show, with some of them much younger than most orchid growers.

We were very fortunate to have Michaels Camera Store, one of the largest in Melbourne sponsor our Exhibition.

The First Prize went to David L. Piko's stunning image of the Australian terrestrial helmet orchid *Corybas diemenicus*. He submitted a range of quality images, including a *Cymbidium erythraeum* hybrid that was awarded Second Prize. Peter Wallace gained Third Prize for his artistically composed greenhood orchid *Pterostylis robusta* (now known as *Diplodinium robustum*).

Three Highly Commended awards were presented. These went to Andrew Fernandez for his shot of the rarely seen

Coelogyne gibbifera, Wendy Clark for her photo of the native terrestrial *Caladenia congesta* and Paul Piko for his classic portrayal of the beard orchid, *Calochilus robertsonii*. Commended awards were gained by Alan Firth for his photo of *Thelymitra fragrans*, Andrew Fernandez for *Bulbophyllum virescens* and Paul Piko for the alien-looking *Pterostylis* sp. aff. *plumosa*, now placed by some taxonomists within the genus *Plumatichilos*.

Apart from the winning entrants, there were also photographs submitted by Neil & Fay Allison, Marita Anderson, Jenny Bolis, David Cannon, André Cleghorn, Rosalie Jones, Peter Krake, Tara Peters and Norman Williams.

The Exhibition has resulted in interest from several other photographers who would like to include entries next year so we are hoping that the Exhibition will grow each year. We may even include orchid art works in future years, once we have the photographic exhibition established.

Cymbidium erythraeum Hybrid,
these older style hybrids are
once again gaining in popularity
due to their unique charm
and fragrance. Second Place
(photo © David L. Piko)



Pterostylis robusta, also known as *Diplodinium robustum*, is one of the indigenous deciduous greenhood orchids. Third Place
(photo © Peter Wallace)

The Melbourne Orchid Spectacular (Orchid Show) and the Victorian International Orchid Fair (Orchid Sales Event) were also the most successful for many years with attendance by the public significantly more than previous events. We like to think that the photographic exhibition may be in part responsible for this increase in attendance however it is hard to know why we have attracted so many new people to our show and sales area. The seller obviously had a successful time because I heard some already asking about booking for next year.

The only way to make orchid growing prosper is to find new ways to attract non-orchid growers to our shows and not rely on our regulars. We are now looking at other ways to attract the public to our show so that they can also get the orchid bug. Does anyone else have some ideas to attract non orchid growers to our shows? ■

André Cleghorn

OSCOV Conservation Officer

& Photographic Exhibition Coordinator

Mentone, Victoria

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Coelogyne gibbifera
is an uncommon species in
cultivation, being native
to the island of Borneo.
Highly Commended
(photo © Andrew Fernandez)





Caladenia congesta,
the Black-tongue Caladenia
is also known as
Stegostyla congesta.
Highly Commended
(photo © Wendy Clark)



Calachilus robertsonii,
the Purple Beard Orchid.
These unique orchids
are closely related to
the somewhat bland-in-
structure Sun Orchids
from the genus *Thelymitra*.
Highly Commended
(photo © Paul Piko)



Pterostylis sp. aff. *plumosa*,
these bearded greenhoods
have been placed in the
genus *Plumatichilos*
by some authorities.
Commended
(photo © Paul Piko)



Thelymitra fragrans
is one of the native
Sun Orchids.
Commended
(photo © Alan Firth)

Bulbophyllum virescens
is a bizarre species from
Malaysia, *Bulbophyllum*
binnendijkii is regarded
as being the same species
and a later synonym.
Commended
(photo © Andrew Fernandez)



Caladenia flava
the Cowslip Orchid
is a very common species
in Western Australia.
(photo © André Cleghorn)





Caladenia versicolor
is one of the spider orchids,
also known as
Arachnorchis versicolor.
(photo © Paul Pika)

Caleana major
is well known as
the aptly named
Flying Duck Orchid,
and always intrigues
children and adults alike
when seen for the first time.
(photo © Paul Piko)





Cryptostylis leptachila, the Small Tongue Orchid, uses the strategy of pseudo-copulation to ensure pollination by engaging male ichneumon wasps. (photo © Paul Piko)



Thelymitra cyanea is one of the stunning blue sun orchids, closely related to *Thelymitra venosa*. (photo © Paul Piko)



Dendrobium Hilda Poxon is the popular primary hybrid between *D. speciosum* and *D. tetragonum*. (photo © Alan Firth)

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Dendrobium violaceum
is native to the highlands
of Papua New Guinea.
(photo © André Cleghorn)



Dendrobium cinnabarinum
from Borneo looks more like
a Hibiscus than an orchid!
(photo © Andrew Fernandez)



Dipodium punctatum
is one of the saprophytic
hyacinth orchids that has
no green parts to the plant.
(photo © Paul Piko)



Cattleya loddigesii
'Impassionata'
is a popular Brazilian
species in cultivation.
(photo © David L. Pilko)

Restrepia trichoglossa
is a widespread
species from Central
and South America,
often unkindly
referred to as
cockroach orchids.
(photo © Wendy Clark)



Pleurothallis chalcitara
is a South American
species that also
comes in an albinistic
green form.
(photo © André Cleghorn)

**Masdevallia Veitch's
Candy Cane 'Super Striper'**
showing off their
happy faces.
(photo © Marita Anderson)



**Masdevallia Impact
'Firebrand'**
with great composition.
(photo © Marita Anderson)



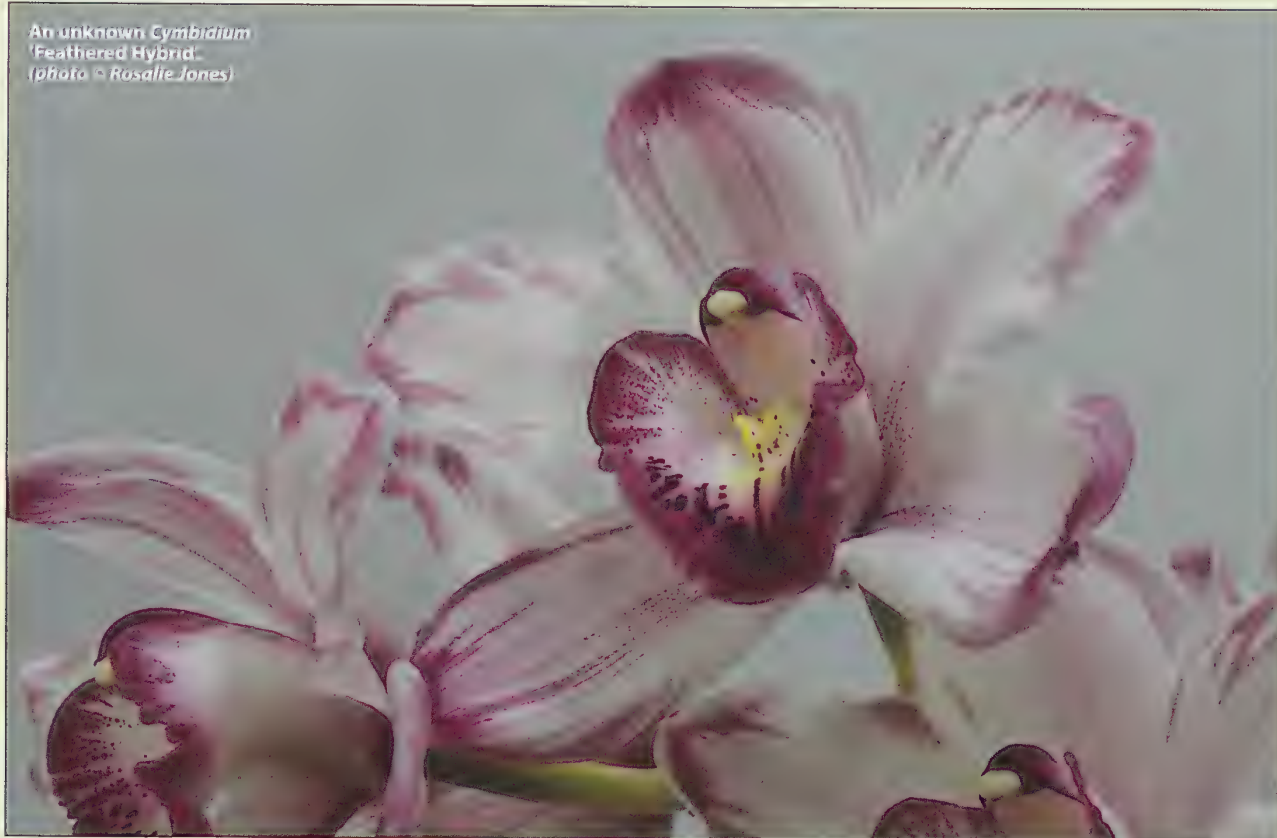


*Cymbidium Penoric
Reality 'Rising Sun'*
(photo © David L. Piko)



*Cymbidium [Showgirl x
(Greenvamps x Laura Arda)]*
(photo © David L. Piko)

An unknown *Cymbidium*
'Feathered Hybrid'.
(photo © Rosalie Jones)



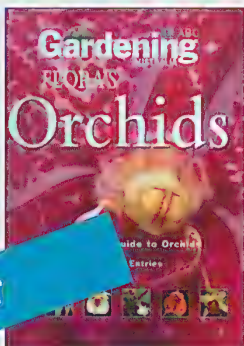
Stanhopea Hybrid
that may have *S. wardii*
in its background.
(photo © David L. Piko)



FLORA'S ORCHIDS

Senior Consultant David P. Banks

Part of the best-selling Flora range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and where appropriate, the translated common name. Spread and height are listed, followed by details indicating plant type, natural growing conditions, frost tolerance, type of flower, and propagation. The brief description includes type of genus, geographic area, and flowering and dormancy seasons. A wealth of sound cultural and propagation advice.

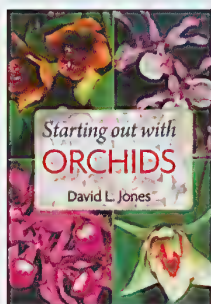


SOLD OUT

AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridisation, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

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Part Two discusses the orchids themselves with concise information on each species. They are grouped primarily according to climatic requirements, starting with cool growing orchids progressing to the warm growers, in alphabetical sequence first with terrestrial genera, followed by the epiphytes. Both Australian and exotic species are treated together. For each entry there is specific detailed information on each species, as well as a simple table giving the basic cultivation needs and flowering season. A glossary is also included to explain unfamiliar terms.

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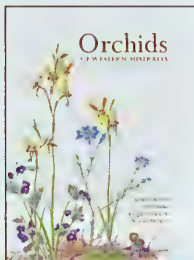
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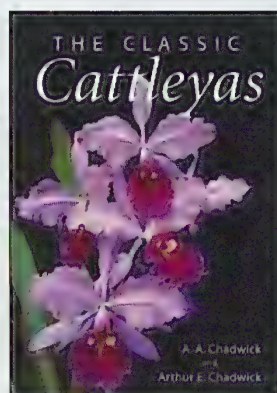
Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

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Colour and B&W.**

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THE CLASSIC CATTLEYAS by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick

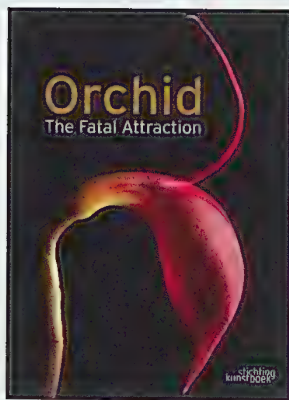
In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.



Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.

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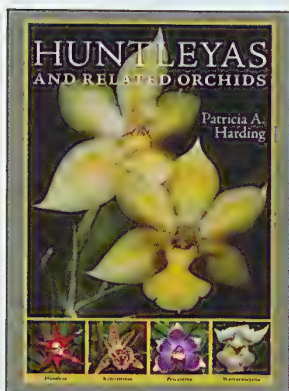
ORCHID: THE FATAL ATTRACTION by Anne Ronse

The subject of orchids is one close to the heart of many floral designers. Some feel it's a privilege to work with these flowers and plants but often wonder how many designers actually decide to investigate the history and nature of them rather than just how to condition them. The text by Dr Anne Ronse, is informative and enthusiastic and the photography is superlative! It's so good that the flowers literally drip off the pages capturing the imagination and the heart. If you want something special, are addicted to orchids and want to luxuriate in glorious

text and images; this is the book for you.

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Colour. Hardcover.

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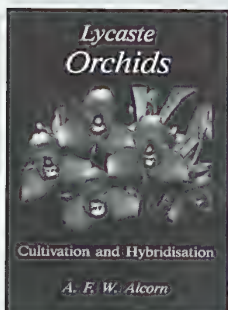
HUNTLEYS AND RELATED ORCHIDS by Patricia A. Harding

Revered by avid orchid collectors for its delightful, star-shaped flowers, *Huntleya* is a small group of orchids found low in the forest. *Huntleya* is a small orchid genus that includes fourteen species. They occur in wet cloud forests at medium altitudes of Guatemala, Costa Rica, South America down to Bolivia. The type species *Huntleya meleagris* also occurs in Trinidad. Besides their striking colours — from deep blue to waxy red, royal purple to almost black — flowers of this group are known for their distinctive shapes, patterns, and textures. As appealing as these lovely tropical orchids are, their identification has been described in the mid-1800s. Recent DNA

studies have led to a clearer understanding of relationships and, as a result of this clarity, it is now possible to sort out the taxonomic problems and identify the characteristics that set species apart. In this first book devoted to the *Huntleya* alliance, author Patricia Harding presents evidence from the scientific literature, other growers, and her own experience that will enable orchid enthusiasts everywhere to identify their plants and grow them successfully. Patricia A. Harding is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades.

**260 pages, 150 colour
photos. Hardcover.**

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LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of

Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages.
Colour and B&W.

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GROWING BROMELIADS (3rd Edition)

by the Bromeliad Society of Australia

Many orchid growers also have a few "broms" in their collection and gardens. This is a revised 2006 edition of the highly successful book on growing and caring for bromeliads. This book was compiled and revised by experienced members of the Bromeliad Society of Australia.

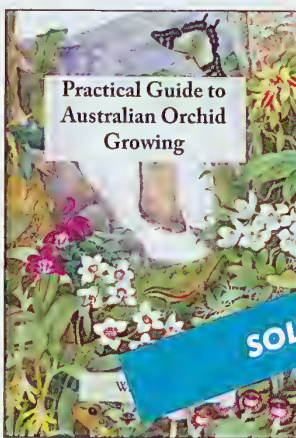
Growing Bromeliads describes how and where to grow over 200 species and hybrids, and details ten of the most popular genera with brief notes on the more unusual genera. The main genera covered are: *Aechmea*, *Ananas*, *Billbergia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia* and *Hechtia*, *Guzmania*, *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium*, *Tillandsia*, and *Vriesea*. Descriptions of the native habitats for each of the ten genera are given, enabling you to provide the right growing conditions for any of these species within these genera. In total, over 400 species/hybrids are discussed.

The book gives an interesting overview of the Bromeliad family, including a brief history of Bromeliad cultivation. There are also separate chapters on how to propagate these wonderful plants and on their unique botany. All of this is written in straightforward language with scientific terminology kept to a minimum. This new 128 page updated Third Edition includes: a new chapter on Australian hybrids; ten new species; new chemical treatment for bromeliads and recent name changes.

Growing Bromeliads is a great introduction to growing bromeliads in Australia. As such, it is a very useful book for someone who has a few bromeliads and wishes to find out more about how to grow them.

**128 pages, 100 colour
photos. Softcover.**

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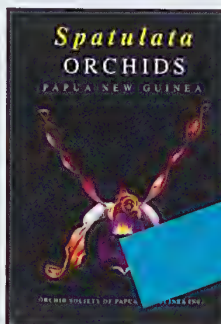
PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia. This book was written for the absolute amateur "orchid nut". It is simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of the some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, Cymbidiums and *Sarcocylus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

64 pages, colour.
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Softcover.

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SPATULATA ORCHIDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

by Justin Tkatchenko and
Steven Kami (featuring photographs
by Rocky Roe)

This excellent A4 size book is out of print and we have secured a few copies. It is not a scientific presentation — published by the Papua New Guinea — showcasing the variety of native *Spatulata* *Dendrobiums* of Papua New Guinea. Over 100 colour photographs illustrate more than 30 species and colour variations. It also includes a number of newly discovered and currently undescribed species. The book includes distribution maps for each species and a section on cultivation, written by the local experts in their field. A required text for those interested in *Dendrobiums*, Orchids of PNG and tropical orchids in general. (Note: these copies are shrink-wrapped, and some pages may be stuck together. This can be rectified by either/or bending the pages or the use of a sharp knife to carefully separate the pages. This was accounted for in the reduced price.)

Strictly limited numbers.

96 pages.
Colour. Softcover.

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Dendrobium erectifolium

Text and photos by Jim Cootes

Some plants are worth growing just because they are neat and tidy in their habits. As anyone with a few *Bulbophyllum* species in their collection will know, there are a few ramblers amongst the species. Leave them for a year or two, when you pick up the pot, several other pots will come along for the ride too. A number of the *Cattleya* species are also wanderers, as are a number of other genera.

The subject for this article is a very tidy plant to grow. It has upright grassy stem-like pseudobulbs, which are about 25cm long, by 2-3mm in diameter. The foliage (that appears to be semi-variegated in my plant), is a delightful shiny green, is erect as the specific epithet implies. The apex of the leaf is bilobed. The single flower appears from opposite the leaf bract, on the upper half of the pseudobulb. The dull red flowers are about 15mm across the lateral sepals, and the veins are noticeably darker red; the column and column foot is cream with red spotting; anther cap almost black; and the mid lobe of the labellum is also almost black.

Dendrobium erectifolium is a native of New Guinea, where the majority of similar species occur. The plants are usually found at mid to high elevations. This species is a member of Rudolf Schlechter's Section *Monanthos*. Type species for the section is *Dendrobium bilobum*, which was named by Dr. John Lindley in 1843. Johannes J. Smith named *Dendrobium erectifolium* in 1908, from plants collected in Irian Jaya. In more recent times, this species has also been found, along the north coast of Papua New Guinea at elevations of up to 900 metres. *Monanthos*

erectifolius is an alternate name for this orchid that I originally acquired from Dr. Geoff Stocker some years ago.

My plant is growing in a 120mm plastic pot, in a mixture of seedling pine bark, small pebbles and some perlite. During the winter months the temperature does not get below 12 degrees Celsius in the heated glasshouse where it resides. It would prefer warmer conditions, and it should be remembered that this botanical species detests the cold. Winter shade is 50%, increasing to 80% shade in the summer months. There is constant air movement from a fan which runs 24 hours a day. The humidity is kept as high as possible, by damping down the floor on a daily basis. During winter the plants are watered once a week. In the summer time I water the plants every second day. All the plants are given both organic and inorganic fertilisers at half of the manufacturer's recommendation.

With a little care this species will develop into a very showy specimen, and is well worth seeking out, if you like neat and tidy plants with character.

References:

- Schlechter R. 1982. *The Orchidaceae of German New Guinea*. The Australian Orchid Foundation.
- Lavarack B, Harris W., & Stocker G. 2000. *Dendrobium and its Relatives*. Kangaroo Press.

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(plant: Ray Clement,
photo: David Banks)

